

Al Muthana Bridge Reopened to Traffic

Project completion marks step towards success for District Advisory Council

By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott
39th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

ADHAIMIYA, Iraq- The ceremony marking the reopening of the Al Muthana Bridge took place May 8, over one year after former regime loyalists destroyed it.

"Renovation of this bridge will connect the highway line and will decrease the traffic congestion in Adhaimiya," said Hasheen Ebrhaym Hasan, chairman of the Adhaimiyan District Advisory Council (DAC).

In April of 2003, weapons

caches stored underneath the Al Muthana Bridge were detonated by former regime loyalists, which destroyed the bridge and severed vehicular access from northwest to northeast Baghdad.

As Coalition Forces began constructing a temporary metal

bridge, the District Advisory Council put Iraqis to work reconstructing the original bridge to its 'pre-war' condition.

Working in conjunction with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC), Coalition Forces helped provide security for the bridge and the locals who were working to rebuild it.

"This bridge serves as an inspiration of what Iraqi people and Coalition Forces can accomplish," said Lt. Col. Kirk Van Pelt, Commander of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the 39th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Van Pelt's Task Force took over security operations from the 1st Armored Division after the Transfer of Authority on April 24th. Task Force 2-153 continued existing cooperation with the ICDC in securing the site until last week's completion of the six-month project.

"This bridge is a symbol of what can be accomplished between Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people when both sides cooperate," said Brig.

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By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott, 39th BCT PAO

Iraqis work on the final stages of the reconstruction of the Al Muthana Bridge on Friday. Coalition Forces assisted in securing the site with ICDC Forces, in order for the Adhaimiya District Advisory Council to successfully complete the six-month project and once again open the bridge up for traffic.

**Camp Victory North Army Post Office
Grand Opening/Dedication Ceremony
Monday, May 31, 10 a.m.**

**Note: Post Office will be closed from 9 - 11 a.m.
Will reopen at 11 a.m. following the ceremony**

**Normal Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Pegasus Sports Oasis
Dining Facility will open for the Dinner meal
Saturday, May 29, 5 p.m.**

**Brickfoot
Camp Victory North PX
Saturday, May 29, 6:30 p.m.
(See them on the last leg of their 12 country tour
of the Middle East)**

15th FSB Gets College of Agriculture Fixed Up

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq- "Our main objective is to give them what they want," Capt. Diego Melendez said while walking through the campus of the Baghdad University, College of Agriculture. "We don't want to Americanize this place."

Students were gossiping between classes, the graduating class was celebrating their final days at the school, and Soldiers

from Company A, 15th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, were putting their heads together with Iraqi contractors to start bids on refurbishing the area.

The campus' buildings need new walls, doors, floors and ceilings. Classrooms need desks, chairs and chalkboards. The library needs computers. The whole campus needed work.

The 15th FSB 'Gamblers'

were given a mission (or project as they call it) to provide security and refurbish the college, and that's exactly what they plan on doing.

"I'm just dying to start one project, any project," Melendez, the commanding officer of Co. A, said with enthusiasm. "We're going to get this thing going."

Last year, the United States Secretary of Agriculture donated \$950,000 to the college for reparations. Throughout the next year, that money will be used to improve the college's campus.

Along with refurbishing the campus, 15th FSB is also helping to organize a security-guard staff. They are giving the Iraqi security officers identification badges, two-way radios and uniforms.

"They're waiting for us to produce, and we're producing," Melendez said.

During the trip to the college, the 'Gamblers' escorted the contractors into every building that needed work, and they wrote down everything that needed to be fixed.

Along with the College of Agriculture, the 'Gamblers' are

responsible for the Veterinary College's chicken farm. The staff from the farm asked if the unit could provide concertina wire to secure the rear of the buildings from being ransacked by thieves, who would climb the fence behind the buildings. The unit responded quickly and delivered enough strands of wire to keep them protected.

"We're making the people realize we're not here to just fight," 2nd Lt. Jeff Peacock, the maintenance platoon leader for Co. A, said. "We want to establish rapport with the people."

The chicken farm is one of the unit's projects and it's almost complete. Contractors have got the area cleaned up and resealed cracked walls.

Another project the 'Gamblers' are working on is clearing rubble around the area. Nearly every day, they have front loaders and dump trucks clearing dirt and crumbled buildings. They put the rubble in low areas in the ground to level it out.




The Soldiers always interact with the families in the area. The children run up to them as soon as they arrive and

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By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 122nd MPAD

Two Iraqi men toss concertina wire behind the Baghdad University, College of Agriculture's chicken farm. The college was awarded \$950,000 last year to renovate its structure. Soldiers of the 15th Forward Support Battalion have taken on the task of getting contractors to begin the work on the campus.

Baghdad, Iraq		
Saturday High: 104 Low: 74 	Sunday High: 105 Low: 76 	Monday High: 107 Low: 79 

Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

North	shi-mal
South	ja-nuub
East	sharq
West	gharb

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Bell County Expo Graduation Schedule

(Times are Central Standard Time)

May 28, 2004 7:30PM -
Copperas Cove High
School

May 29, 2004 10:00AM
- Temple High School

May 29, 2004 3:00PM -
Killeen High School

May 29, 2004 8:00PM -
Ellison High School

May 30, 2004 2:00PM -
Harker Heights High
School

May 30, 2004 6:00PM -
Shoemaker High School

Today in History

May 29

► From historychannel.com

1848 Wisconsin enters the union as the 30th state

1865 President Andrew Johnson issues general amnesty for all Confederates

1903 Film, TV and radio star Bob Hope is born

1951 Actress and singer Fanny Brice dies

1953 Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal become the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point on earth

1977 A.J. Foyt, known as "SuperTex," became the first four-time winner of the Indy 500

1988 President Ronald Reagan arrives in Moscow for summit talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

► Graduates Look to the Future



Temple Daily Telegram

Members of Belton's Class of 2004 take part in the school's commencement ceremony Thursday at the Bell County Expo Center. Belton High School graduated its largest senior class ever.

► From *Temple Daily Telegram*

BELTON, Texas- Help those in need. Cherish friends and family. Remember Belton. These were the messages given to the 451 students who graduated from Belton High School Thursday evening. For the first time, the Belton High School graduation ceremony at the Bell County Expo Center was

broadcast to Soldiers in Baghdad as part of a special effort by Killeen-area schools to give parents of Belton seniors that are deployed a chance to see their sons or daughters graduate. The packed center erupted into applause when the Soldiers watching were shown on a big screen above the graduates. A Soldier waved in response.

Neighborhood Watch Aids FSB Cleanup Efforts

Continued from Page 2
the Soldiers give them candy, pencils or pens, and sometimes soccer balls. Since they began clearing the rubble, they have gotten to know the children pretty well.

"The locals are very friendly and helpful," Capt. Matthew Hintz, 15th FSB civil affairs officer, said. He added that local families have helped the unit find weapon caches, get intelligence and warn them about the enemy.

"For three months it's been peaceful," Hintz said. "We haven't shot a round...and we haven't been shot at."

39th BCT Responds to Community Needs

Continued from Page 1
Gen. Ron Chastain, Commander of the 39BCT, 1st Cav. Div. "Although this is a rather large project it is only a small one compared to what we can do together."

Designed and adopted through the District Advisory Council, the project is a small success in the Coalition Forces efforts to provide a secure environment, which gives the Iraqi people the opportunity to plan and rebuild their nation as they see fit.

"Renovation of this bridge it is not the beginning of the renovation or its end," Hasheen Ebrhaym Hasan said. "It came from the requirement that Adhaimiyans asked for it."

FIRST TEAM



BEAT THE HEAT



THE BEST DEFENSE IN BEATING THE HEAT IS PREVENTION:

- o Drink more fluids, regardless of your level of activity. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink. Warning: If your doctor limits the amount of fluid you take in or has you on water pills, seek his advice on how much you should drink while the weather is hot.
- o Don't drink liquids that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar - these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.
- o Stay indoors or in a shady area and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. Even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help you stay cooler when you go back into the heat.
- o Electric fans help but when the temperatures get into the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illnesses. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving into an air-conditioned place is the best bet.

Michael Jordan Disappoints Fans Waiting to See Him in Taiwan



► From AP

PORTLAND, Ore.- Michael Jordan left the building all too soon for his faithful fans in Taiwan. Customers there spent hundreds of dollars on Nike athletic apparel to ensure themselves a spot in the audience May 22 when the former Chicago Bulls legend visited Taiwan as part of a seven-day promotional tour of Asia.

They were disappointed when he only made a two-minute appearance.

He appeared in a short

skit with two children and spoke about the importance of working hard, said Shelley Peng, a spokeswoman for Oregon-based Nike.

To resolve complaints from fans who felt slighted, Nike met Tuesday with five consumer and government agencies in Taiwan and worked out a compromise, Peng said.

Nike Taiwan will offer attendees copies of the vintage Wings poster of Jordan with his arms stretched open.

The company also will give them priority entry into a future event by a visiting NBA star and will offer fans a free pair of Air Jordan 1 Retro Low shoes, which are not available for purchase in Taiwan, she said.



NBA

CONFERENCE
FINALS

(Best of 7 series)

Eastern Conference

Indiana 83
Detroit 68
(Series tied 2-2)



In hopes to defuse a PR disaster, Nike Inc. GM for Taiwan, Lin Chin-lee and sales manager Hu Shan-ming bow in apology to angry Michael Jordan fans.

The Lord of The Rings: The Return of the King DVD Released May 25



New Line Cinema

Tolkien's three musketeers: Frodo, Gollum and Sam continue their trek to Mt. Doom in the Return of the King DVD.

► From USA Today

Lucky for you, it's a holiday weekend, or else you'd never make it through the DVDs being offered up by Mike Clark this week. In addition to The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, you can mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day with an extended version of Saving Private Ryan. Plus, celebrate the career of Rita Hayworth with You

Were Never Lovelier and revisit the Vietnam protest group the Weathermen in The Weather Underground.

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
*** 1/2 (out of four)
2003, New Line, rated PG-13, \$30

Big spider, degenerating Gollum, fatigued Frodo, 11

Oscars and about as many endings.

Back story: Now you can make a day of it, one-two-three. The third and best of the Tolkien screen trilogy (feel free to argue) wraps up the saga satisfactorily enough to make its screen predecessors seem even a little better. There's an amazing stretch in the second half where there must be a solid hour of action.

TV GUIDE



TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Law & Order	Saturday Night Live (03-04) 5:30 p.m.	Rip Curl Presents/ Gillette World of Sports	Beautiful Girls 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Headline News/ Navy/Marine Corps News	Kickin' It	SportsCenter	The View
8 p.m.	SportsCenter	ESPNNews/ NASCAR Busch Series - Carquest Auto Parts 300	French Open Tennis - Early Round Coverage Day 8	Burt Wolf's Local Flavors/ A Makeover Story
9 p.m.	MLB - Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies			Trading Spaces
10 p.m.				Trading Spaces



MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 5
Texas 4

Cleveland 1
Oakland 0

New York 7
Tampa Bay 5

Boston 8
Seattle 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 9
Chicago 5

Cincinnati 7
Montreal 6

Philadelphia 3
Atlanta 2

Florida 2
New York 1